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Local dancer Yasmin Schoenke performs during the Diwali celebration at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday night. /ADAM FRISK staff

# Beer Store confirms Haliburton closure

ADAM FRISK  
*Journalist*

The Beer Store (TBS) has confirmed the closure of its Haliburton location at the

start of the new year. The beer retailer announced Thursday that the Hops Drive location will shutter on January 11. "We are making the difficult decision to close the Haliburton Beer Store. We know

this is disappointing news for staff, customers, and the local community. This decision reflects specific local circumstances – the Haliburton Beer Store will continue to serve customers and collect empties until January 11th, 2026," Ozzie

Ahmed, VP Retail TBS, said in a statement. "We want to thank customers for their patronage in Haliburton. "The Beer Store recognizes the contributions our employees make to the see PET VALU page 14

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# Health Unit merger set to support multiple communities

EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

"It's been 50 years," opened Ron Black, the deputy mayor of Selwyn and chair of the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Board of Health, "since the first time this was attempted in 1975. Three different attempts to merge the health units."

Black stood before county council on Nov. 12 during their regular meeting, alongside Dr. Thomas Piggott, medical officer of health and chief executive officer, and Hallie Atter, director of community health, to discuss the merging of multiple health units, now known as Lakelands Public Health.

In 2023, the province of Ontario offered a voluntary merger for public health, with a three year funding support, to create health units of 500,000

people. The new health unit combining Haliburton County with Peterborough communities hovers at about 340,000 within their catchment areas.

"Let's determine our own destiny," said Black, "and merge voluntarily with financial support before the province maybe comes back with that proposal of forced amalgamation."

Black noted that both individual health units struggled with capacity and preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was another reason they looked at joining forces to support their communities' clientele during unprecedented times.

He shared that over the past ten years, there has only been a six per cent increase in base funding towards public health; a number that does not keep up considering an inflation rate of 28 per cent over the past decade.

"Without the merger, really, we felt there would be significant program

reductions in a time where both units were already struggling to maintain minimum public health standards," said Black.

Dr. Piggott echoed Black's sentiments. "We've been going through a pretty hard year," he said. "Mergers are hard ... but this is really a good thing for our communities. This is about creating a stronger, larger, more capable health unit together, and having more capacity to do the important work we do."

Both Black and Piggott recognize County Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, who sat on the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Board of Health as vice-chair, and offered support and guidance as the two units joined forces.

Piggott went into the 2026 budget, which has been approved by the board of health, and sees an increase of 3.7 per cent in expenditures, with a total expenditure of \$33.70 per capita.

While the road hasn't always been smooth during the merging process, Piggott shared some successes that have come to the forefront now that they are finding their footing, including finding efficiencies around costs, maintaining continuity or all programs and services, investments to improve systems, tolls, and facilities, and meeting provincial milestones for the merger progress, to name a few. "This truly is about strengthening the public health services for the communities we deliver," he closed.

Gary Dyke, the county CAO, noted that Dr. Piggott and the staff have been admirable in the efforts made around the merger. "It showed a real understanding of the challenges faced not only broadly across public health, but also specifically for the residents of the County of Haliburton," he said. "We do appreciate the efforts that you've done ... respecting the financial implications in Haliburton."

# Haliburton sled dogs hit big screen with Jonas Brothers

ADAM FRISK  
Journalist

The huskies from Haliburton's Winterdance Dogsled Tours were back on the

big screen, making a brief appearance in the new Disney Christmas movie starring the Jonas Brothers.

Winterdance's Tanya McCready and her dogs spent three days on set in Toronto back in January for the filming of *A Very Jonas Christmas Movie*, which

premiered on Friday.

"It's pretty surreal," McCready said in a telephone interview.

It's the dogs' second movie appearance in as many weeks, following the release of *Frankenstein*, which premiered in theatres late last month.

"For us, we're pretty darn proud of them, that's for sure," she said.

The owner explained the dogs' scene was short, involving them pulling a sled to bring a rescuer, played by actor Randall Park, onto a wilderness set. The sled dog team's initial involvement required a three-day commitment: one practice day to ensure the dogs and sled could run on the artificial snow, a day teaching a stunt double how to drive the sled, and the final shooting day.

McCready said the dogs were recommended for the job by crew members on the *Frankenstein* set, which the huskies worked on in the winter of 2024, describing the set experience as a bit of a "homecoming," with many familiar faces from the previous film.

"It was like coming back to people and friends that we'd worked with the win-

ter before," she said. "And the director, Michelle Yu, she was amazing to work with."

Because the filming took place in January, the crew made special accommodations, allowing the dog team to drive their large truck right onto the set.

"The dogs are used to it and everything is set up for them," the owner explained. "They come out and chill, and we have carpets for them."

McCready said that while she did not directly interact with the Jonas Brothers, they were close by, and the dogs became instant celebrities on set. The dogs spent their downtime serving as "great therapy dogs on set," meeting countless people, and, according to their owner, generating "tons of selfies." One of the Jonas Brothers was even spotted spending time with the dogs.

"People just come and visit with them and hug them, it was pretty cool," McCready said.

Winterdance's sled dogs have appeared in three Hallmark Christmas movies and several commercials over the last decade, McCready said.



## Oh Christmas Tree

The Dysart fire department brought in a tree from the Salvatori family to display in the downtown core of Haliburton over the weekend. The Lions Club and the Haliburton BIA invite people to come decorate the tree over the holiday season. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

# New doctor joins local roster

EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

There's good news on the physician recruitment front. On Nov. 12, Wendy Welch, physician recruitment coordinator for the County of Haliburton brought a report to county council outlining a physician incentive agreement for Dr. Max Rannie.

Rannie is a family physician, who reached out to staff in response to the local physician recruitment website. The doctor visited from Maine in July for a community visit, and has since made a commitment to Haliburton Highlands Health Services for full-time starting in April. Welch noted that he would be caring for acute patients admitted to the hospital, as well as working in the emergency department; an arrangement that represents full-time practice.

With Dr. Rannie in place, Welch shared

that Dr. Paul Faulkner, HHHS Chief of Staff believes they will no longer need to recruit physicians for the emergency department. "This would fill that roster," said Welch.

According to the letter of support from HHHS staff, Dr. Rannie was awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical University of the Americas in 2018, then completed a family practice residency at the Northern Light EMMC Family Medicine Residency Program in Bangor Maine in 2021.

With ties back to Ontario, Welch shared that Dr. Rannie is looking forward to returning to Canadian roots.

Staff made the recommendation that Haliburton County Council authorize the Warden and the Clerk to enter into a Medical Services Agreement with Dr. Max Rannie for a period of four years, with four \$25,000 incentive payments scheduled for 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029.

Council carried the motion and unanimously approved.



# Places for People makes plans for the future

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Changes are on the horizon for local housing initiative Places for People (P4P); a major theme that came out of this year's AGM, held at the Haliburton Curling Club on Nov. 8.

With 60 people in attendance, it was no secret that housing is top of mind for board members and community members alike. "We have to thank the community," said Susan Tromanhauser, board member of P4P. "I really have to praise this community for showing up."

Tromanhauser noted three major points they discussed during the AGM. Firstly, they celebrated their partnership with Peterborough's Habitat for Humanity; a collaboration made official in September of this year. The two housing-dedicated organizations have committed to building a 35-unit affordable housing co-build on Peninsula Road in Haliburton; a project that is already in motion.

The second major point was around discussing recruiting new volunteers to the organization. "We've grown very quickly over the last couple of years," said Tromanhauser, noting the 20 units P4P owns locally, as well as the two units they manage. "We have to keep our focus on affordable housing, and we're maxed out. Our board is exhausted."

Tromanhauser recognizes that the commitment to boards is challenging for many, but the organization is seek-

ing both volunteer support, as well as an opportunity for a full-time paid position. "As much as we're proud of how we've expanded," said Tromanhauser, "it's not nearly enough."

Currently, approximately 40 per cent of Haliburton County residents spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing, allowing them to fall into the bracket of need for affordable housing. "We've really been focusing on worker housing," said Tromanhauser, noting that many employers are struggling to secure staff based on a lack of housing in the region.

The third major point came with an audible gasp in the room when it was announced. Fay Martin, founder of Places for People, will be stepping down as director of the board. "She will still be involved with P4P, of course," said Tromanhauser. "But she will be stepping aside to focus on bigger picture things."

"Let's step back 20 years or so to 2005," opened Max Ward at the AGM. "It was then that Fay had the idea of creating an organization to provide affordable, appropriate, supportive housing."

She wanted to address the need that she could see in the community."

Ward has been affiliated with P4P alongside Martin for nearly two decades. He noted the constant increase in need around affordable housing, and the frustrations that arose due to lack of consideration. "Instead of waiting for someone else to do it, she did it," said Ward. "Fay helped to organize people and convinced others of



Susan Tromanhauser receives a cheque for P4P from St. Peter's Anglican Church in Minden for \$10,000 to go towards affordable housing in Haliburton County. /submitted

her vision and here we are today."

Martin has been active in the community since she first arrived in Haliburton, when a one-year contract as the coordinator of social services turned into a 15-year commitment and the development of Point in Time.

"Fay's work with Places for People tirelessly focused on advocacy," said Ward. "One way that Fay was able to advocate and spread that helpful influence was to work with Tapestry Community Capital.

Through Tapestry, she was able to spread the word to other regions how to invest in their own communities through Community bonds."

Many would recognize Martin's name through our regular columns, *Poke, Peel, Pair and Ponder*, which run bi-weekly in this newspaper. "In pursuit of life-long learning, Fay has travelled to Germany and the Netherlands to learn more about homes supporting people with dementia," said Ward. "Fay is a valued academic, researcher and community builder."

When asked about next steps during a later interview, Martin reflected on her time with P4P. "Birthing and nurturing Places for People to young adulthood has been both a challenge and a pleasure, as anything truly worthwhile is," she said. "I am confident I am leaving it in good hands. As my father said when he handed me off to the big world at age 18 - I've done the best I can, and now it's time to see how good a job I did."

Martin noted that she is grateful to be given an ancillary emeritus role, which allows her to continue to match-make people and ideas into action, including positioning P4P and Haliburton County in its place on a larger housing stage. "Ambiguously happy to leave the day-to-day work to younger hands," she said.

While the AGM wrapped up, P4P was pleasantly surprised by a cheque from the Thrift Shop in Minden through St. Peter's Anglican Church on Invergordon Avenue. The organization received \$10,000 for their efforts. "We are so grateful for that," said Tromanhauser. "We can't rest on our laurels. We have to keep the focus on affordable housing."

## Safety for all; County takes next steps towards GIS support

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Many longtime locals would recall when the blue 911 numbers first arrived in the community. What many may not know, is that there are strict requirements in place to maintain the project and the regulations around it.

On Nov. 12, during a regular meeting of county council, director of IT Mike March reintroduced the project to members of council. He noted that the county undertook a NG911 readiness assessment with the BH Group earlier this year, with results delivered in the fall.

Through the engagement, the BH Group analyzed the current GIS data, policy, and practices, and provided recommendations to help evolve the county's GIS service so that it meets the strict requirements of public safety data.

March introduced Holly Barkwell, the president and CEO of the BH Group. "I want to explain the importance of building a public safety grade GIS data set today," she said.

The BH Group works with Public Safety answering points, or 911 centres, on technical and operational communications. They also work with public safety organizations and municipalities and government agencies.

"I'd like to take a minute or two and explain to you the challenges we're facing with the existing 911 system," said Barkwell. "Before the introduction to wireless technology, an emergency event was tied to a single phone at a single physical address, which was provided by the 911 provider."

She noted that the process was "very straightforward," due to the event being tied to the physical location of the call.

"Mobile devices were added to carriers

in the 1990s," said Barkwell, "and things got a lot more complicated." She shared that by using a technology where people could move around, the site of the emergency could be skewed as there is not one set location. This is currently the status of 911 calls as of present. "It was not a perfect solution, and it still isn't," she said.

"We are now moving to Next Generation 911, which we call NG911, which adds even more complexity." She noted that devices such as Alexa and Google can now call 911, as well as access through social media and online channels, making the access point of the emergency incredibly difficult to track.

Now that the NG911 format has rolled out, under commission's direction, Bell Canada launched a list of responsibilities for governing agencies. "One of those responsibilities include GIS data used for public safety ... a direct county responsibility."

Barkwell noted that information was received from all four lower tier municipalities, as well as the County of Haliburton, with the intent of moving forward with a public safety grade GIS data set.

"This presentation just shows that we're now catapulting ourselves into this century," observed councillor Jennifer Dailoux, "and that's really, really important. Especially for a county like Haliburton."

Councillor Cecil Ryall brought up the lack of communications during the ice storm in the spring was concerning for residents, and inquired about whether the new 911 technology would support any of those challenges, to which Barkwell shared that those disconnects are not part of the specific plan. "We have been trying to work with Bell," noted CAO Gary Dyke. "I regret to say those efforts have been futile. Very disappointed in Bell's response to our requests to meet."



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Haliburton Remembers

Haliburton Legion Branch 129 held their annual Remembrance Day ceremony and parade on Nov. 11 through the downtown core. Despite sleet and snow, the ceremony paid tribute to all those who fought in the wars. /ADAM FRISK staff





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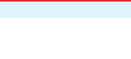
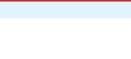
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## Minden Remembers

Reverend Joan Cavanaugh spoke at the Remembrance Day ceremony and conducted the Prayer of Remembrance.  
/THOMAS SMITH staff



Dick Schell holds the Canadian flag while walking with the colour party.

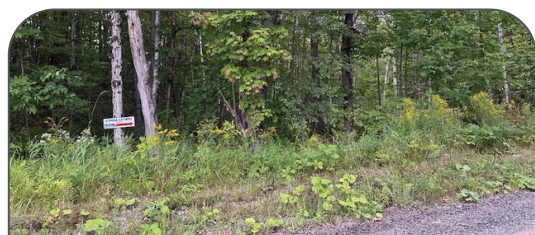


It was a cold and snowy day at the Remembrance Day ceremony on Tuesday. A sizeable crowd came out for the event in town, despite the weather.



## Irondale Remembers

Sergeant Burton and Mayor Dave Burton went to view the Veterans show in Irondale following Remembrance Day. Sergeant Burton is an active member of the armed forces, and reflected on the many lives lost through the wars.  
/submitted



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## Kids

IT'S A time of year where kids are on the forefront. And they should be. It's a season of magic and wonder. As we age, that sparkle dims and dwindles; until sometimes it sputters to a halt altogether.

Seeing this season through the eyes of my own kids has allowed me to reconnect with my inner child. The one who tossed tinsel on the evergreen that towered in our living room, and stayed up past bedtime to catch a glimpse of Santa.

But it's truly not all magic and wonder for every kid this time of year. It's also a time of pinched pockets and stretched securities. It's no secret that the cost of living has sky-rocketed; basic needs falling through the cracks at every turn.

When I spoke to representatives from Moorelands Camp in Dorset, their number one priority was "to let kids be kids".

And what does that mean, exactly? To be a kid?

That definition can change entirely based on who is sharing. But to me, to be a kid means to feel free. To let go. To explore the bold and beautiful world that was seemingly built brick by brick around you, in a way that powers you forward whilst holding onto the strings that carried you from place to place.

To be a kid is to play, to create, to ask questions and dive deeper. It's to laugh and joke and find your footing on a pathway that's comprised of hopscotch and pebbles.

It's to believe in the wonders of tomorrow, the curiosities of today. It should be a chapter where you

are unabashedly yourself as you navigate the rights and wrongs, the passions and the pleasures, the highs and the lows of a world that never stops spinning.

But so many kids don't have that.

Not now, not ever. And due to the cyclical nature of poverty, their kids won't have it, and neither did their parents.

So how do we add magic and wonder to each little life?

During a season where basics are encouraged and needed, perhaps we can take a step back and think about where the magic lies? Contributing funds to food banks is crucial, but perhaps so is contributing to kids' camps? Maybe toy drives need more focus, or Christmas cookies more shared?

It's not always easy. Many of us are making do with what we have, just barely scraping by on our own. It shouldn't

be up to the individuals to make their marks. It is the responsibility of our elected officials to find the ones who fall between the cracks, and pull them to light. There are a select few who make the decisions for many, and those decisions aren't always with the marginalized at top of mind. A thought to remember during each and every election time.

But with what we can do, let us add sparkle to the season; magic and wonder and make-believe and memories. Building a foundation for our kids today, as the ones who will lead us tomorrow.

Because it's the time of year where kids are on the forefront.

And that's exactly where they should be.



Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

## The fear of death

IT'S A known fact that we are all going to die. Our culture, and perhaps our generation, seems dedicated to denying that fact. We spend our time and energy and money – in particular our money! – 'staying young'. We acknowledge we can't hold back the years, but we act as if we can cheat them of their power to move us toward The End. The ideal is that we live long and strong until some morning we wake up dead.

I have no quarrel with the ideal. My issue is that we fail to prepare ourselves and those we love to have a good, or as-good-as-possible,

death. In what other world would we avoid preparing for a journey we are about to take for which there is no Fedor's or Lonely Planet, no wisdom from those who have gone before? You'd think we'd circle the wagons and share our thoughts generously and graciously.

But mostly we avoid the topic. How weird is it to include in our condolences a query about what kind of death the person had? Very (although I do it). And why is it weird? Maybe because many of us have not been present at a death. Or that the death was so mediated by medicine that it was hard to see it as a personalized event. Or that we don't have an agreed-upon definition of what a good death is, so the default position is that

death is bad. Or that we think it's out of our control so there's no use in evaluating the quality of the experience.

But mostly, I think, we have bought the idea that death is an event rather than a process. It's a destination without a journey.

Dr. Sally Chivers, Trent prof in Gender and Social Justice, in a thought-provoking key-noter at a recent conference of gerontologists, asked what people feared. Because, she said, what we fear determines how we see the world which in turn determines how we behave. That validated my perception of our general stance toward death – we fear it so we deny it which exacerbates the fear.

My thought is if we move back a step and embrace death as a process, a gradual movement toward a predictable end, we might clear the fog of fear enough to have some useful thoughts and conversations.

I come to this as I prepare to market my book on caregiving for a spouse with dementia. Because there is no cure for dementia, accepting the diagnosis is accepting that the up-coming journey ends in death. Once you swallow that reality, and digest it (admittedly an ongoing process as the disease is a long and winding road of a thousand little deaths), you can hunker into managing the trip, even enjoying it.

The fear that Sally Chivers references, as relates to dementia, is that we as a society have decided that death by dementia is a horrible death. It's the end that people most assuredly don't want. It's horrible because it is long and attenuated, not the tidy wake-up-dead that we idealize. It's horrible because the mind goes before the body, and we believe that we are what we think (thank you, Descartes, 'I think, therefore I am' guy who did his share in separating us from the natural world), and therefore we disappear or become something other than ourselves before our body allows us to depart this mortal coil. It's horrible because being a non-person makes us vulnerable (if we're the one with dementia) or terribly responsible (if we're the care partner).

But if a culture that can entertain the notion that some who depart this world pass through Pearly Gates and become winged creatures making song, surely we can imagine a new and lovable persona earlier in the process.

My hypothesis based on limited evidence is that aging is the other side of the hill of life, and as we slip down the slope, we become variations of what we were as we clambered up the hill. We become child-like, in the sense of constrained cognition – can't think like we used to – and also in terms of increasing dependence.

Childhood is a lovely stage of life (if we are fortunate enough to be safely dependent). It is a time of wonder and joy and discovery and becoming what we are. If we weren't so afraid of death and the road to death, perhaps we could create the conditions under which the end of the life cycle has its own loveliness. We'd need to ensure that we could offer safe dependency, assurance that essential body, mind and spirit needs are met, so that both the person with dementia and the care partner are free to fully experience this stage of life.

We could do that. Let's put fear of death in its place and give it a try.



Fay Martin

Poke, Peel  
Pair, Ponder



# points of view

## Rebel without a clue

**I**F YOU notice me walking around town with a swagger in my step and a ball cap that seems to be riding about a half inch too tall, don't jump to conclusions. I have not been shoplifting pita bread.

No, what you are seeing is the emergence of a trend that I am about to unleash upon the world. I call it the lowhawk.

That's right, I'm now sporting an age-appropriate mohawk-inspired hair style. And, believe me, it's got the town buzzing.

Just the other day, I was in the grocery store checkout line and the cashier, who was probably in her late teens, looked at me, sighed, and said, "Do you want to buy a shopping bag for all these items?"

For those of you too old to remember, that's teen-talk, for "Wow! That's the coolest hairstyle I have ever seen, man! It's really groovy!"

I had a similar incident on the street when I made a passing remark to a fellow about how I loved this November weather we've been having. That fellow replied, "Give your head a shake!"

Presumably, he wanted to see how my lowhawk stood up to the rigours of day-to-day activity.

Between you and me, all this attention is embarrassing.

Right now, those still reading are probably asking, "What's a lowhawk?"

Well, it's like a mohawk but much shorter.

You might recall, back in the day, punk rockers wore mohawks, which was a narrow strip of hair atop their other-

wise shaved heads that was brightly coloured and six to ten inches tall. When you saw a person wearing a mohawk you knew they were either rebellious, or had stupidly mentioned to their barber mid-haircut that they forgot their wallet at home.

The average mohawk wearer was using the hairstyle to snub societal conventions or, in the case of shorter people, to appear taller so they could get on those stupid carnival rides.

Fast forward to the lowhawk. Not to brag, but I invented this myself.

It began when Jenn was cutting my hair. She had just finished pretending to lop off my bangs when I said, "Leave the hair on top alone."

Jenn, who is not a professional barber and therefore is only so-so on hair locations and barbering terminology, replied with, "What hair?"

Fast forward again! This time to six months later.

Now, as you will probably notice next time we meet, there is a strip of hair atop my head that stands proudly a full quarter-inch above the other two hairs on my head.

That's right. I'm a rebel.

My lowhawk is a clear signal to society that I will not be a conformist – and I invite everyone to join me.

As a 63-year-old non-conformist, I will rebel against all the things that are expected of an almost retirement-aged man. That's right, I will not wear socks and sandals (in winter at least).

That's it for now. Honestly, I don't want to be too hasty about this rebellious phase I'm entering. But, as time and my lowhawk progresses, I fully expect to become an even greater threat to the conventional norms. Heck, I can foresee the day when I will not mow the lawn for almost two weeks.

But here's the thing. I'm not looking to start a movement. I'm just looking to snub societal conventions in a very minor way.

Also, does anyone know when the next carnival is coming to town?



**Loon Tales**

Steve  
Galea



## pic of the past

**D**r. Agnes Jamieson, the namesake for the art gallery in Minden, poses with a friendly dog. Dr. Jamieson was the first female coroner in Ontario, after arriving in Minden in Dec., 1939. In a famous quote regarding Dr. Jamieson, one local shared: "The lady doc' is only chin high to a rail fence, but she's all wool and a yard wide, and is okay by us – she is more of a man, for all her skirts, than many a guy we know." /FILE

## A quiet morning, a gentle intention

**T**HIS ARTICLE is brought to you by a quiet Sunday morning - fresh air, soft snowflakes drifting down, chickadees calling from the woods, and a gentle breeze moving through the trees along the trail. And, of course, by our beautiful golden retriever, Billie Rose.

Every morning, Jim and I pull on our dog-walking clothes, add our bright orange hats and vests for this time of year, and head out the door. It's how we choose to begin each day. Our intention is simple: to move our bodies, breathe fresh air, and care for our dog. But as the years go by, I've realized that these small rituals nourish far more than our muscles and lungs. They support our minds, our spirits, and that quiet inner light that needs tending just as much as anything else in our lives.

We all need habits that remind us we belong - to nature, to one another, and to the great, unfolding story of life. What nourishes each of us may look different, but the need itself is universal. When we do things that connect us to our essence - our magical, spirited selves - something inside brightens.

I've noticed that when my "to-do" list grows too long, I stop feeling that magic. If I spend too many hours on my phone or computer, I start to feel weighed down, tired, even a little worn out. It's easy, especially as responsibilities grow and the world becomes noisier, to drift away from the simple act of being present.

But when I pause - when I give myself even a moment of quiet - I reconnect with

the energy that inspires me to be who I want to be: a caregiver, a teacher, a mother, a wife, a friend. A small force for goodness in whatever ways I can be. Creating a life that nourishes us takes intention, but the reward is a steadier, kinder way of moving through the world.

Last weekend, I attended the Haliburton International Film Festival at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion - now in its seventeenth year. The theme was Elbows Up, Chins Up, Rise Up, and the films came from Germany, France, Italy, a small village in Macedonia, and the United Kingdom. Each story showed people stepping up for one another, often in difficult and uncertain circumstances. It was a comforting reminder that even in a world facing so many challenges, there are countless individuals choosing compassion over

fear, generosity over greed.

This week, I also had the pleasure of speaking at the Eagle Lake Women's Association. For nearly ninety years, these remarkable women have supported their community with steadfast kindness. They focus on the hopeful. The good. Their belief in the power of generosity has never wavered. And perhaps that is where everything begins - with intention. With a desire to stay connected to the quiet magic around us and within us. When we choose to notice the small beauties of a morning walk, or the kindness in a community, we rise up in our own gentle way. And from that place, goodness has room to grow.

*Tales from  
the great*



Lynda  
Shadbolt

**Green meadow**



# Vigil honouring the victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre

The CFUW Haliburton Highlands would like to invite the community to come together for a special vigil to remember the 14 young women whose lives were taken during the 1989 École Polytechnique Massacre in Montreal.

The gathering will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Museum parking lot, where participants will walk together into the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. The vigil will start at 10:45 a.m., and include the reading of the women's names, a moment of silence, and a song of remembrance. Attendees will be invited to tie ribbons on a tree as a symbol of hope and solidarity.

This annual event is a time for the community to stand united against gender-based violence, reflect on its ongoing impact, and honour those whose lives were lost or changed forever. It is held as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, observed glob-

ally from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, and on Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Gender-based violence continues to deeply affect Indigenous women and girls, 2SLGBTQIA+ and non-binary individuals, women with disabilities, youth, newcomers, and those in rural and remote communities.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us in standing together for a safer, more compassionate future.

**Event Details**  
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025  
Assembly: Haliburton Highlands Museum Parking Lot, 10:30 a.m.

Vigil begins at 10:45 (Haliburton Sculpture Forest)

For more information: cfuwvh@gmail.com.

Submitted

# Paving the path to climate hell – Ontario's high cost energy plan

Environment Haliburton (EH!), is sponsoring a virtual presentation by David Robertson of Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN!) on Tuesday Nov. 20, 2025 at 7 p.m. entitled "Paving the Path to Climate Hell: Ontario's High Cost Energy Plan"

David Robertson, a former researcher and senior staffer with Unifor is the author of a number of highly acclaimed critical analyses of both federal and provincial government energy and climate plans. His June 2025 Canadian Dimension article entitled "Ontario's Costly Nuclear Folly" (canadiandimension.com/articles/view/ontarios-costly-nuclear-folly) exposed just how costly a massive expansion of nuclear power will be for Ontarians.

"The Ontario government plans to spend an inordinate amount of money to support a nuclear industry whose reactors will, in all likelihood, be stranded

assets well before the end of their useful life. Now and in the years ahead we will be paying electricity bills that are unnecessarily high. And then our children and their children will be forced to pay off the next generation of stranded nuclear debt."

This zoom event is open to everyone interested in the impact of the Ontario government's massive expansion of nuclear power. A question and answer period will follow Mr. Robertson's presentation.

Registration is required and can be accomplished easily and quickly by going to the Environment Haliburton (EH!) website at [www.environmenthaliburton.org](http://www.environmenthaliburton.org).

For further information contact: Susan Hay, President, Environment Haliburton (EH!) Telephone: 705-457-9239, Email: [environmenthaliburton705@gmail.com](mailto:environmenthaliburton705@gmail.com)

Submitted

# Fast Lane Monday afternoon bowling league

Top Bowling Scores Nov. 10

**Women**  
High Single  
Cathy Snell 244  
High Single with Handicap  
Shelley Makela 282  
High Triple  
Cathy Snell 634  
High Triple with Handicap  
Shelley Makela 742

**Men**  
High Single  
Jeff Adams 199  
High Single with Handicap  
Jeff Adams 251  
High Triple  
Robert Terro 516  
High Triple with Handicap  
Dale Freitag 662  
New bowlers are welcome to join!

# Tim Hortons holiday smile cookies spread cheer in county

From Nov. 17 to 23, Tim Hortons guests in Haliburton and Minden can help make the season brighter for local families by purchasing a Holiday Smile Cookie. During the week-long campaign, 100 per cent of proceeds from each Holiday Smile Cookie sold will be shared between the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, the Minden Community Food Centre, and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

The Holiday Smile Cookie campaign is a cherished annual tradition that invites Canadians to give back to their communities while enjoying a festive treat. Each hand-decorated cookie sold at participating Tim Hortons restaurants helps support local charities and youth development programs. Many of the Holiday Smile Cookies are decorated by local leaders in our community, including builders and contractors, healthcare, government, media, non-profit organizations, real estate, sports, and more.

"We're proud to once again be part of a campaign that brings our communities together for such meaningful causes," said Mike Garland, owner of Tim Hortons Haliburton and Minden. "Every Holiday Smile Cookie purchased makes a real difference, helping local families put food on the table. It's one small act that creates a big impact."

For the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, community support is vital year-round, especially as the holiday season approaches. "We're so grateful to be included in this campaign," said Louise Ewing, Board Chair of the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank. "Money raised during the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign helps local families facing food insecurity. It's heartwarming to see neighbours supporting neighbours."

The Minden Community Food Centre echoes that sentiment. "The need in our community continues to grow, and partnerships like this help us meet it head-on," said Jim Wilson, Board Chair of the Minden Community Food Centre. "We're thankful to Tim Hortons and to every customer who buys a Holiday Smile Cookie this November, you're making a real difference."

You can purchase Holiday Smile Cookies at Tim Hortons restaurants in Haliburton and Minden from Nov. 17 to 23, or if you'd like to place a bulk order for Holiday Smile Cookies, visit <https://tally.so/r/nPrKNV>

Every cookie purchased helps spread smiles across the community.

Submitted

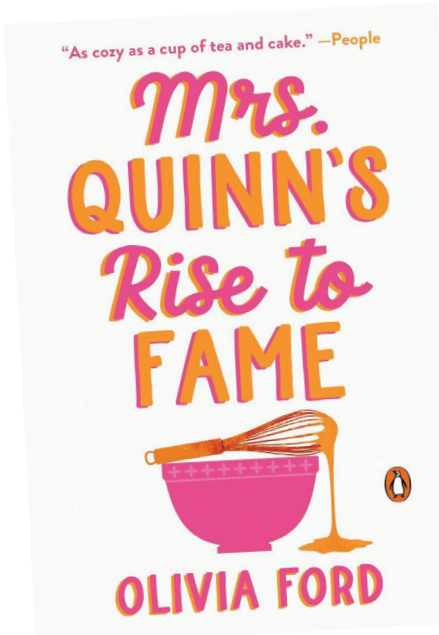
## Minden Memories



A turn-of-the-century photo of Minden's Main Street shows a slower pace of life, with a wooden trestle bridge crossing the Gull River. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.



## Book of the Week



After fifty-nine years of marriage, Jenny's world has begun to shrink as her husband Bernard's health declines and her friends focus on their grandchildren - something she never had. Longing for something of her own, she secretly applies to compete on the TV show *Britain Bakes*. Immersed in the whirlwind of cameras and confections, Jenny rediscovers her independence, but the stress of competition stirs memories she's long tried to forget. Each bake recalls a moment from her past, including a secret she's hidden from Bernard for decades. As her star rises, Jenny must confront the truth she's buried - and decide whether revealing it will destroy the life she's built or finally set her free.

*Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame* by Olivia Ford is available at the Haliburton County Public Library as a book or Book Club Set. Visit [haliburtonlibrary.ca](http://haliburtonlibrary.ca) to place a hold or learn more.





# HALIBURTON VILLAGE SANTA CLAUS PARADE



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 2025 ~ 6:30pm

## A Canadian Christmas

*True North Strong & Free*



## BANDS HORSES MARCHER BRIGHT LIGHTS



To enter contact  
Jim Frost at 705 457-4031 or  
[jandmfrost@outlook.com](mailto:jandmfrost@outlook.com)



At the Town Tree, there will be caroling  
at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm



**Canada Postal workers will be on the  
parade route collecting letters for Santa.**



**REMEMBER - NO PARKING ON HIGHLAND STREET**

*The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown  
Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton &  
District Lions Club*







A horse-drawn carriage brings kids to Moorelands Camp in Dorset in the early 1900s.  
/photos submitted



Moorelands campers explore a trail around Kawagama Lake in 1975.

# Moorelands Camp changes lives for the better

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Deep in the woods of Dorset, there is a magical place.

A place where kids can be kids, where the pressures of the real world can be shed, and the joy of community connections and lifelong friendships are given a space to flourish.

And it's been changing lives for over 100 years.

Moorelands Camp first formed in 1917, and moved to Kawagama Lake in 1972. This leadership camp provides a safe space for kids to step out of their comfort zones, and unplug from their digital devices to reconnect with nature. Through interactive activities that include kayaking, high ropes, archery, sports and much more, the key leadership elements of developing responsibility, decision making and critical thinking are woven throughout each activity.

"And our vision mission has never changed," said Colette Halferty, the director of development and communications for the camp. "Serving low income families from low income communities. Those who wouldn't be able to go to camp."

Based out of Toronto, Moorelands Kids started in 1912. The idea of the program is to work with under-privileged youth, to develop leadership skills and tangible, hand-on life experiences that would support them in the real world. "By design, our intentional programming meets kids where they are at," said Halferty, "and empowers them to recognize their own potential to grow and develop life and leadership skills that can strengthen their emotional and social well-being."

The programming is offered year-round, and designed to build and develop skills that are not traditionally taught in schools. "We invest in kids by way of teaching attributes and soft skills that are transformative and life-changing in terms of their sense of self-respect, relationships built on mutuality and respect of others, and team building," noted Halferty.

Moorelands Camp is an expansion of these teaching methods, but in a different place, with different people. With the camp only accessible via boat, kids start their journey to Moorelands already outside of their comfort zone. "It's a bit of a magical experience," chuckled Halferty. Currently, the camp has the capacity to support 600 campers over the course of the summer, with a dedication to keeping

the camper to staff ratio at two campers per counsellor; ensuring safety and support is top of mind.

Halferty noted that it is a device-free camp. "It's all about real face time," she said. "There is a commonality to our campers. Everyone is coming together under very similar challenges."

Historically, the camp has attracted kids from city centres, but the staff at Moorelands are aware of the poverty levels within Haliburton County, and hope to welcome more local kids into their accessible programming. "Poverty is on the move," said Halferty. "And we want to create safe, fun places where kids can really thrive."

The programs at Moorelands Camp are designed for ages eight to 16, with many campers returning year over year. Halferty referenced one camper who came many summers in a row; gradually building her confidence and drive each time. By the time she aged out from the camp program, she had her path in life paved forward, and followed through with a career in nursing, before returning to the camp to work as an on-site nurse. "It was a very full circle moment," said Halferty.

Other campers expressed similar sentiments. "My favourite part of camp is definitely getting to meet new people," said Mariah, a camper in 2023. "After my first year at camp, I was still kind of nervous, but it is a good feeling that I get to make new friends every summer. We learn leadership skills, like taking responsibility for ourselves. We learn to reflect on our actions and how they affect others."

While Halferty can't pinpoint the exact number of campers who have been to Moorelands over the years, she knows that the programming has helped "hundreds of thousands of kids." The camp does not receive any government funding for their programming, and is entirely supported through fundraising initiatives. With the model in mind that every kid deserves to be a kid at camp, the organization follows a subsidized scale, which indicates where campers fall into for their costs. "We want to meet kids where they are," said Halferty. "So that way, they're not going against another stigma. We do everything we can to make it so that they can be a kid."

Information on Moorelands Kids programs as well as Moorelands Camp can be found at [www.moorelands.ca](http://www.moorelands.ca), as well as options for donations. "Kids are our future," said Halferty. "We want to give them all the tools they need to thrive."



For over 100 years, Moorelands has welcomed kids to explore camp in Dorset.



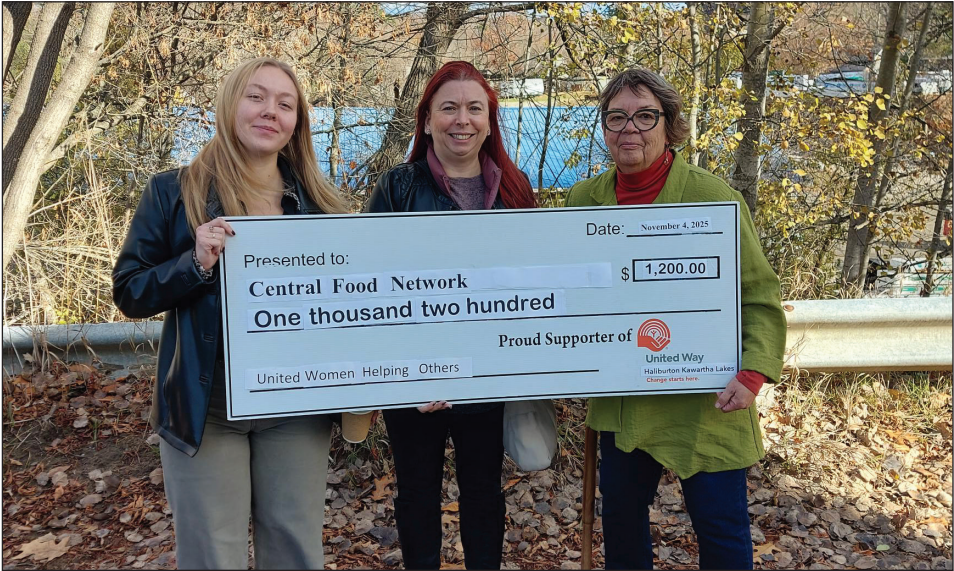
Moorelands offers traditional camp experiences, such as swimming, boating, archery, and high ropes, as well as leadership training and foundational skills.





### Magical markets

Despite snowy weather, Abbey Gardens saw plenty of people at their Holiday Market on Saturday evening. This is the first year the market is up and running again, after taking a hiatus last Christmas. Pictured, artists stand next to their displays set up in the on-site tent at Abbey Gardens. /TIM YANO staff photographer



### Helping hands

The Central Food Network is grateful to have received a \$1,200 grant from the United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes' United Women Helping Others initiative in support of their free income tax clinics. This gift will help ensure that residents across Haliburton County can continue to access free, confidential tax filing assistance through Central Food Network's Volunteer Income Tax Program. Each year, trained volunteers help hundreds of local individuals and families with modest incomes file their taxes accurately and on time ensuring they receive the benefits, credits and refunds they are entitled to. /submitted

# JOLLY JOG

## FREE FAMILY WALK & RUN

**Sunday, November 23 @ 11 AM**

Haliburton Highlands Museum  
66 Museum Road, Haliburton

**Wear your favourite, festive holiday gear!**  
**Choose from three routes ranging from 1.5 km to 5 km.**  
**Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.**

**Supporting Snowflake Meadows Rescue**  
*Donations are appreciated but not required.*

Cash donations | Dog and cat food (Acana, Advantage, Advantix) | Heavy chew bones | Timothy hay for rabbits and tortoises | Gift cards to local pet stores (Pet Valu, Paulmac's, Pet Tyme, Animal Krackers, Minden Mercantile)

  
[www.dysartetal.ca/jollyjog](http://www.dysartetal.ca/jollyjog)

## INCINERATING TOILETS inc.

Cinderella Eco Dealer

# TIRED OF YOUR COMPOSTING TOILET?

*Incinerating toilets are a hygienic and odorless solution that does not require a water supply or a drainage.*

An eco friendly alternative where only ash remains.



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888-646-2664  
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[info@incineratingtoilets.ca](mailto:info@incineratingtoilets.ca)



# Be the light...

# SIRCH

community  
services

# Gifts *from the* Heart

Fundraising Campaign 2025

## A Message from SIRCH Executive Director...

### Our Mission:

**Solving real problems.  
Strengthening rural  
communities.  
Creating connection  
and resilience -  
together**

### Our Vision:

**Thriving communities  
where everyone feels  
connected and  
supported.**

No one should be hungry here. Not in a community like ours.

Yet across Haliburton County and North Hastings, hunger is now a daily reality.

A parent quietly skipping meals so their children can eat.

A senior choosing between groceries and heat.

A young person living rough with no idea where food will come from next.

Food insecurity in Canada has surged almost **40% in two years** — and rural communities are feeling it most. Higher food prices. Long distances to the nearest store. Limited transportation. The struggle adds up quickly.

For SIRCH Community Services, responding to hunger has become a core part of our mission. And this community has proven what's possible when we take care of one another.

**Because of your support last year, more than 22,000 nutritious meals and thousands of hearty soups were prepared and provided free of charge.** Fourteen partner organizations helped distribute meals and ensure that those who were ill, single parenting, isolated, unhoused, or living with anxiety and depression were able not only to eat, but feel cared for.

One meal recipient told us:

*"It was the first real meal I'd had in days. It gave me hope."*

**Behind every meal is a community effort:** Donated fresh food from growers and grocers; Volunteers chopping, stirring, packaging with care; Donors giving so no one is left behind.

**But hunger is growing. And so must our response.**

As we plan for 2026, we're working to:

- Access more fresh food
- Expand preservation methods that don't rely on hydro
- Offer more free cooking and food-literacy programs
- Reach neighbours still falling through the cracks

Studies show **every \$1 invested in community meals can return up to \$4.40 in social value** - better health, less stress, and stronger community resilience. You helped make that impact possible here through your donations.

**Now, we're asking for your support again. Be the reason someone eats tonight.**

Donate at [sirch.on.ca/donate](https://sirch.on.ca/donate)

**Gena Robertson**  
Founding Executive  
Director,  
SIRCH Community  
Services





**SIRCH**  
community  
services

# *Be the light...*

Because of your  
generosity, last year you  
helped us provide 22,000  
FREE, nutritious meals.

That NEED is growing!

SIRCH Meals are funded  
entirely by your donations!

**Gifts** *from  
the*  
**Heart**  
Fundraising Campaign 2025



***Please give what you can***

**[www.sirch.on.ca/donate](http://www.sirch.on.ca/donate)**





# Pet Valu moves into Beer Store spot

from page 1

business and in the communities where we operate. All efforts will be made to support employees through this process in alignment with commitments and agreements,” Ahmed said.

The announcement comes just days after a sign was erected at the entrance to the Hops Drive plaza, announcing a new Pet Valu store opening along with the revitalization of storefronts.

On Wednesday, Hops Developments confirmed to *The Echo* that the pet store would be occupying the former NAPA Auto Parts location.

“So they are moving in with an expected opening date, I think, of June 2026,” Adam Brind, Hops developer and property owner, said in a telephone interview. “We’ve got some landlord work that we’re doing from now until, I guess, the end of January. That work includes doing, redoing the facade of the building, new windows.” Brind also noted re-paving the driveway on-site, as well as a number of additional upgrades to the property.

The developer said he couldn’t comment when asked about the fate of the Beer Store.

Pet Valu confirmed to *The Echo* on Wednesday that the new store would occupy two units of Hops Drive.

“Amber Meyer, Regional Director, Franchise Store Operations at Pet Valu, has confirmed the Hops Drive store will have two units, units 2 and 3,” a spokesperson said in an email. “It is a relocation of a previous store, and the new store will have a dog wash.”

The Beer Store has closed more than 100 locations so far this year, since Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced the government’s alcohol expansion plan. Pet Valu has moved into several storefronts that were once a Beer Store location, including in London, Ont., and the town of Erin.

As for returning empties, the Beer Store said it

“encourages customers to continue returning more than the 1.6 billion alcohol containers we process annually to one of our local TBS locations or an empty return dealer located close by.”

UFCW Canada Local 12R24, the union that represents The Beer Store workers, blasted the latest closure announcement.

“It’s a horrible situation all around,” union president John Nock said in a telephone interview Friday morning. “We’re losing lots of jobs, and nobody is saving the jobs. They’re not hiring them in convenience stores, and they’re not hiring them in grocery stores.

“Prices are going to go up, and places to bring your empties are slowly diminishing,” he said.

As part of Ford’s booze expansion plan, all grocery stores that sell alcohol will be required to accept the return of empties and refund customer deposits starting January 1.

The union president said the staff at the Haliburton location will have two options: either transfer to another store or take a severance.

This is a developing story. *The Echo* will have ongoing coverage in next week’s edition.



A sign was erected at the entrance to the Hops Drive plaza, announcing a new Pet Valu store opening. /ADAM FRISK staff

## Art Heaven is back at Rails End Gallery

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The popular biennial art and collectibles fundraiser, Art Heaven, is returning to Rails End Gallery, offering art lovers a vast array of donated treasures while raising funds for the art centre’s community programming and operations.

The event, which runs from Nov. 14 to Dec. 13, features hundreds of pieces of art ranging far beyond traditional canvas work.

“It’s not just paintings,” gallery director and curator Laurie Jones said in an interview last week ahead of the opening. “We’ve got ceramics, and we’ve got glass. Having it every two years is the perfect time because otherwise, it takes a while to accumulate.”

This marks the fourth iteration of the show, which

was resurrected after a brief hiatus. Jones explained that, unlike a show that solicits work from artists, Art Heaven solicits donations from the community - people who already own and collect art.

“We solicited donations from people who have art and who purchase,” she said, noting that the “net has been wide” for donations.

All art is donated with the full knowledge that it will be sold to benefit the gallery, the curator said. The items are individually priced, ranging from “extremely affordable” pieces to those with a higher “intrinsic value,” such as collectible ceramics or works by known artists.

The gallery plans to utilize the event as a vital part of its strategic plan to develop diverse income streams.

“Our main one has always been the art and craft festival in the park,” Jones said. “But nothing like two years without being able to have it to make you realize that you better pivot.”

Jones noted that the funds raised are crucial for supporting the gallery’s mission of providing accessible arts programming. Admission to the gallery is free, and family programming is often free as well, with workshop fees typically covering only material costs and artist payments, she said.

“Somebody has got to pay for the heat and the hydro,” Jones said with a laugh.

The gallery is also embarking on a major project for a new, more accessible entrance from York Street.

Visitors are encouraged to drop by between Nov. 14 and Dec. 13 to explore the unique collection and support the gallery’s community work.



### Notice (Applicant – Fiddler)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of an Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Ted’s Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

**Notice Is Hereby Given**, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the *Municipal Procedures*, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 9th day of December, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**, a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 31, Concession 12, Township of Monmouth, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan of Survey 19R-10359, made by **Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd. completed October 17, 2019.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-10359 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

**And Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

**Dated** at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 11th day of November, 2025.

**Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk**  
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,  
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0  
**rrogers@highlandseast.ca**  
(705) 448-2981

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Municipality of Dysart et al

Notice of Special Meeting

2026 Budget Projects and Priorities

Take notice that there will be a **Special Meeting** of Council on **Friday, December 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss projects and priorities for the 2026 Mayoral Budget. The Municipality has also set the following dates (if required) to review the Budget:

January 9, 2026 and February 13, 2026

**These meetings will be livestreamed. You can view the proceedings by visiting the Dysart YouTube page:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/CVWZxsvf8VCyDf04uwjCJ6g>

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk



# Lockside Trading Company set to close end of month

ADAM FRISK  
*Journalist*

Lockside Trading Company in downtown Haliburton Village is set to close at the end of the month after eight years in town.

The decision comes as founder and owner Sue Mattucci, who established the original business in Young's Point, Ont., in 1987, has chosen to semi-retire, her son explained in an email last week.

Mike Mattucci told *The Echo* the store closure would allow his mother to "scale back Lockside to its original location, and enjoy more personal time with friends and family."

The flagship store in Young's Point, along with the online shop, will remain open and continue to serve the Haliburton, Peterborough, and Kawartha regions.

The Haliburton location first opened in the spring of 2017 at 183 Highland Street. In 2019, the store moved to a bigger location at 212 Highland Street.

Mattucci said his mother's semi-retirement was coupled with the changing retail landscape.

"Retail has changed with consumers just buying online at the big Amazon, Wayfair, etc. Not supporting the local communities, its small businesses, and buying Canadian Made," he said in an email. "Because how and where you spend your money affects us all, from

small towns to across Canada."

The closure will affect two local employees.

Until the end of the month, an inventory sell-off is underway with significant discounts across various items. The dis-

counts include no tax on regular-priced items, 50 per cent off select clothing and giftware, 25 per cent off bedding, and much more.

Mattucci said customers holding Lockside Trading Company gift cards will be

able to use them at the Young's Point location.

The future of the 212 Highland Street property is not expected to remain vacant for long, as another business is set to open there in the near future, Mattucci said.



## Gift ideas for everyone

The Ladies Auxiliary of Haliburton Legion hosted the annual craft sale on Saturday, featuring more than 40 talented artists from the community. /ADAM FRISK staff

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Santa comes to Minden

Santa Claus finished the Minden Santa Claus Parade held on Saturday Nov. 15. While the wind was brisk, people filled the streets to welcome in the holiday season. /THOMAS SMITH Staff





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# Shindig hoping to help with heating costs

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

With winter coming early this year, the need for accessible heat sources is higher than ever.

That's why Sue Waite, the executive director for Fuel for Warmth, believes this is the time to help those in need.

"It gets busier every year," said Waite. "We used a lot of our reserves last year, so we're just trying to build that back up again."

Fuel for Warmth is dedicated to ensuring no one faces the harsh cold without warmth; providing emergency heating assistance to those in need. The organization was started in 2009, when former Minden Community Food Centre Joanne Barnes learned of the many families living in the cold. "People would come in and tell her that their kids were wearing snowsuits in the house, or that seniors were bundled under blankets with their dogs to try to stay warm," said Waite. "Since then, we have become incorporated, and it's just gotten bigger and bigger every year."

Two years ago, the organization received 60 calls for heat support and delivered 30 loads of wood. Last year, they received 132 calls for support, and delivered 49 loads of wood. This year, even before the harsh snap of winter has really taken hold, they have already received 15 calls and given eight deliveries of wood.

"And it gets busier in January," said Waite, worried about what the future will hold.

The primary fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth is the annual Highlands Christmas Shindig. "Everything goes right back to the bank," noted Waite. The Shindig has changed in formats over the years, and was traditionally held at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion before it was moved to the Haliburton Legion to accommodate capacity and tech requirements.

This year, the performing musical feature will be Jeff Moulton and his band, with Victoria Bingham and Amy Brohm as the hosts; a nod to the original Shindig days, where different characters were adopted and performed.

The event will also include a silent auction, with items donated by local businesses and offerings. Waite noted



Amy Brohm and Victoria Bingham dressed up for last year's Shindig, and will be back to host with humour once again on Nov. 22 in Haliburton. /FILE

that the email address has changed, and encourages those interested in e-transfer donations to add [fuelforwarmthinc@gmail.com](mailto:fuelforwarmthinc@gmail.com).

The annual Shindig is set for Nov. 22 at the Haliburton Legion. Doors open at 6:30 with music starting at 7:30 p.m. The show will also be live streamed, with donations accepted online.

If you are seeking support for heating your home or

are interested in supporting the cause, visit [www.fuelforwarmth.com](http://www.fuelforwarmth.com). An application form is available online if you need assistance with heat support this winter.

"The community in Haliburton County is just so generous," said Waite of the successes over the years from the Shindig. "This is something that really helps their neighbours."

## Arts Council launches next chapter of community presence

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

The arts are for everyone.

That's the mindset of the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands (ACHH).

"At ACHH, we believe in the power of the arts to inspire, educate and bring people together," reads their website, in bold letters. "We are a strong voice for arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands, we drive creative development and bridge relationships that add to the vibrancy of the community."

But in these post-COVID-19 years, the arts was one of the biggest industries to take a hit financially. That's why the council dedicated themselves to an in-depth strategic plan, which solidified the presence of the arts in the community. "We wanted to make sure the arts stayed vibrant in the community," said Sharon Kennedy, a board member for ACHH. "So we have created an opportunity to donate. We decided this was going to help keep the focus on the arts in the community."

As of Nov. 1, ACHH has launched the Giving Campaign; an initiative to ensure a vibrant creative future for the county. "It was really well received," noted Kennedy, referencing the feedback they heard during the ACHH AGM last week when discussing the launch. "It's gratifying that people don't want to see this council go away."

With the Giving Campaign, the council invites anyone interested, including businesses and community members, to contribute to the arts world, in an effort to sustain the growing number of artists locally. "Donations will directly support local artists, public art projects, and accessible community programs that inspire people of all ages," reads the press release.

Kennedy noted that the one component that makes the ACHH unique from others across the province is the multi-faceted nature of the artists under their umbrella of



The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands hosted Art in Focus exhibition opening on Nov. 13 at The Link, featuring the work of three photographers. /ADAM FRISK staff

support. With nearly 200 arts organizations and individuals involved with the council, they represent a plethora of disciplines, including visual, literary, and performing arts.

As the world evolves, as does the arts world, and Kennedy shared that they are seeing an increase in digital arts and photographers, as well. "Haliburton County has all of those disciplines and they are very active," she said. "The Arts Council works as an umbrella organization to keep that cohesion between them."

Being affiliated with the Arts Council has multiple benefits, including round table conversations, connections with like-minded individuals, and shared marketing offerings. "The county is so huge, and artists are

spread throughout," said Kennedy. "We really, over the years, have brought publication under one roof."

The council offered a networking social at the Link last week, and featured three photographers: June Krisko, Gregg Thurlbeck, and Huw Morgan. This showcase is one example of how the ACHH uses its partnerships and community connections to celebrate the variety of artists who call our community home.

More information on the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands can be found on their website, at [www.haliburtonarts.on.ca](http://www.haliburtonarts.on.ca). There is a button on the site to donate to their Giving Campaign, as well as options to get involved with the organization.



A Festival of Lights

Harsha Manani and Jagdish Shrimali welcome guests at the start of Diwali celebration at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday night. /ADAM FRISK staff



Local dancer Yasmin Schoenke performs during the Diwali celebration at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday night.



Jagdish Shrimali, who played a key role in the organization of the event, dances during the Diwali celebration





# HUSKIES HOCKEY

Despite stormy weather, the Haliburton County Huskies came out on top over St. Michael's on Saturday evening, with a big win of 8-1. The Huskies will not be playing locally again until Nov. 29, and have taken to the road for the coming weeks.  
/TIM YANO staff photographer





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Sunday, Nov. 30  
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Saturday, Dec. 6  
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**The need for Meals-On-Wheels subsidies has doubled in less than a year.** Last year, we shared over 10,000 meals, bringing comfort and care to our most vulnerable neighbours. This year, we aim to do even more.

Long-term Care residents now benefit from "MealSuite" an innovative nutrition system that provides personalized care. **Thanks to community support, HHHS staff have more time to engage with residents.**

## "One of the Best Investments You Could Make"

Don and Anne have deep roots in the Highlands – Don's great-grandmother built the Bonnie View, now a local landmark. But Don's cancer treatments became more intensive, the couple faced a challenge. The radiation was exhausting, and the long drives to appointments was becoming impossible.

Don had always been the driver, but with his health declining and Anne nervous to get behind the wheel again, they didn't know how they would manage.

That changed when they learned about **HHHS Community Support Services' medically necessary transportation program** during a seminar at their apartment complex.

"Once we spoke with the intake team, we learned we qualified for the subsidy," Anne says. "We had our first ride booked before the end of the meeting."

In September alone, Don took **seven trips to Peterborough** and one to **Oshawa** for treatment – each trip costing **\$25** thanks to donor-supported subsidies.

"It's been really good," Don says. "It's taken the pressure off both of us, and now we're dropped right at the door, so I don't have to walk as far with my walker. We have marvelous volunteers, and this program means so much to people like us who want to stay independent."

Last year, the Foundation **subsidized over 10,000 kilometres** of medically necessary travel. With your help, **we can exceed that this year.**

*This is the magic of giving.*



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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 7 |   | 1 | 3 |   |   |   | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 6 |   | 5 |   |   | 2 |   |
|   | 1 |   |   | 8 | 2 | 9 |   | 5 |
| 1 |   |   |   | 7 | 3 |   | 4 |   |
|   | 2 |   | 4 | 6 | 8 |   |   | 9 |
|   | 5 | 4 |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 9 |   |   | 2 |   |   |
| 5 |   | 1 |   | 2 | 6 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 2 |   |   |   | 5 |   | 4 |

Level: Beginner

## Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 25

|    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2 | 3  |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 11 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 12 | 13 |    | 14 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 16 |    | 17 |    |   |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    | 19 | 20 | 21 |    |
| 22 |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |    |   |    |    | 25 | 26 |    |    | 27 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |   |    | 28 |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 |    |    |    |
| 31 | 32 | 33 |    |   |    | 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    |    | 36 |    |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |   |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |   |    | 41 |    |    | 42 |    | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 |    |    |    |   | 49 |    |    |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 53 |   |    |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |
|    |    | 56 |    |   |    |    | 57 |    | 58 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 59 |    |   |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

- ### CLUES ACROSS

  - 1. Popular broadcast network
  - 4. Train line
  - 10. Go quickly
  - 11. Straightforward
  - 12. Canadian province
  - 14. Swiss river
  - 15. It can be straight or curved
  - 16. Edit
  - 18. Utter repeatedly
  - 22. Gotten up
  - 23. Sea vessel
  - 24. Agents of one's demise
  - 26. Not out
  - 27. Something to scratch
  - 28. A round water pot
  - 30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
  - 31. Promotions
  - 34. Masses of matter
  - 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
  - 37. Nightstand item
  - 39. The content of cognition
  - 40. Arab ruler
  - 41. Northern U.S. state
  - 42. Chewed in small bites
  - 48. Hawaiian island
  - 50. More thin
  - 51. Of one
  - 52. Rigid bracelet or anklet
  - 53. Barbary sheep
  - 54. Not even
  - 55. Atomic #106
  - 56. Haggie
  - 58. Boxing's GOAT
  - 59. Division of a group into opposing factions
  - 60. Vietnamese offensive
- ### CLUES DOWN

  - 1. Horse-drawn carriage
  - 2. Prejudices
  - 3. Peacefully
  - 4. University athletic official
  - 5. Soldiers
  - 6. Large mollusk
  - 7. Take out again
  - 8. Sour or bitter in taste
  - 9. Songwriter Tunstall
  - 12. Husk of wheat
  - 13. Flexible covering in some birds
  - 17. Energy
  - 19. Night monkey genus
  - 20. Small nails
  - 21. Colorless volatile liquid
  - 25. In a way, changes integrity
  - 29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
  - 31. Remember it
  - 32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man
  - 33. Pleasant facial expression
  - 35. Sea vessel
  - 38. Lacking poetic beauty
  - 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
  - 43. Sports personality Michelle
  - 44. Robber
  - 45. Liquefied natural gas
  - 46. Snakelike fish
  - 47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
  - 49. Crimean seaport
  - 56. Bad grades
  - 57. Popular S. Korean rapper



# Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthly school news. The columns are completed in English and French, to honour both languages the students learn in.

By: Colton Ansley (Gr. 12), Beau Harnois (Gr. 12), and Jordyn Titus (Gr. 11)

This month has been full of activities at Hal High!

October saw the community hosting the Canadian Student Leadership Council. The CSLC is a student leadership conference hosted at Camp White Pine that brought in leadership students from schools all over the country.

Hal High students were there for a full week, attending workshops and presentations and acting as Camp Counselors to peers from across Canada. Two of our students, Marisol Hall and Tavia Harris, shared their experiences powering through an intense schedule to get the most out of their time. They noted an especially powerful presentation from a marine who spoke about his life experience as well as a motivational speaker, Ian Tyson, who also presented to the entire school about the power of kindness following the conference.

The Red Hawks have had an exciting month for sports! This month a sport came back that hasn't been done in Hal High for over five years. Hockey is officially back this year with many participants excited and ready.

Volleyball is always a hit in Hal High and it was an exciting month with the boys team having multiple victories. The junior and senior boys' volleyball teams have wound down after an eventful and exciting season.

With the boys soccer team, although it didn't last long, they still had lots of fun. The basketball teams are always great at Hal High and this month the girls team made it even better by showing great teamwork to bring the team to victory.

We also had five runners who represented Hal High well at OFSAA: Violet Humphries, Erika Hoare, Annika Gervais, Alex Lee and Quinn Hamilton. Even the Leadership Class got in the sports spirit hosting a mini golf tournament throughout the halls.

Clubs were busy this month as well! Interact hosted its annual WE Scare Hunger initiative on Halloween, collecting non-perishable goods for the local food banks. This initiative kicked off a food drive being held at the High School for the month of November run by the Leadership Class.

The HHSS Drama Club has also been



Students from across the country came to Haliburton last month to participate in the Canadian Student Leadership Council. /submitted

busy preparing for their upcoming production of, *Puffs; Or, Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* by Matt Cox. Performances will be coming up December 13 to 15, and the club can't wait to show the community this hilarious work.

The school got green this month with a garbage clean-up day hosted by the Leadership class, with Mrs. Klose's Grade 10 Math class winning the challenge by collecting an impressive amount of garbage.

This month the Red Hawks showed off their school spirit with plenty of fun activities organized by the Leadership Class. We started the month off with silly hat day where students showed up in their silliest hats, from sombreros to witch hats.

Next up was Country Vs Country Club day, with students either dressing as cowboys or in clothing ready for the country club (the cowboys won). Grade 9 day was about welcoming our newest Red Hawks with fun and games from Tug O' War to sitting in the rainbow parachute one last time.

As Halloween colour day got closer we had a Halloween colour day filling the school with Halloween colours, and finally we ended the month off with a Halloween dance and costume day, where the Halloween spirit was through the roof with all the student participation.

Overall October was an awesome month full of school spirit, fun, and laughter for the Red Hawks.

## Hal High Monthly Octobre

Par: Alexis Dacey (Gr. 11), Chloe Morissette (Gr. 11), Isabella Valentini (Gr. 11)

Le mois dernier, HHSS était en effervescence alors que les élèves célébraient deux événements majeurs et le coup d'envoi des sports : la danse annuel d'Halloween, la très attendue Journée de la 9e et la remise des diplômes des sports scolaires comme le cross-country, le soccer, le basketball et le volleyball. Toutes ces activités ont réuni les élèves pour un mois de convivialité, de rires et de convivialité.

Le vendredi 10 octobre, les élèves de 3e du HHSS ont échangé leurs livres et leurs salles de classe pour profiter du grand air et s'amuser. Durant la deuxième moitié de la journée, ils ont participé à de nombreux jeux et activités manuelles, comme le cornhole, le tir à la corde et les courses d'obstacles. L'événement a été riche en rires et en divertissements.

Le 23 octobre, la cafétéria s'est transformée en une fête effrayante pour la danse d'Halloween, avec des décorations effrayantes, de délicieux plats et une playlist qui a fait danser les élèves toute la nuit. Les costumes allaient des vampires et sorcières classiques aux références astucieuses à la culture pop. Le cours de leadership du lycée a permis de récolter environ \$700, qui pourront désormais être consacrés à d'autres activités scolaires.

"La participation a été incroyable", a déclaré Mme Carr. "C'était formidable de voir les élèves s'amuser et faire preuve d'autant de créativité."

Ce mois-ci a été exceptionnel pour les sports du Hal High. L'équipe de cross-country a d'excellentes performances aux championnats COSSA et plusieurs de ses athlètes se sont qualifiés pour OFSAA. L'équipe junior homme de soccer a gagné deux matchs importants et se prépare pour les championnats Kawarthas. Les équipes féminines junior et senior de basket-ball ont terminé leur saison régulière et se préparent activement pour les championnats Kawarthas, qui auront lieu le 6 novembre. La plupart des femmes finissantes de l'équipe senior ont joué pendant les quatre années de l'école et cette année est importante pour elles. Tout au long du mois d'octobre, elles ont très bien joué et ont démontré une grande progression, en jouant une défense solide et en améliorant leurs compétences. Enfin, l'équipe masculine senior de volleyball a connu un excellent mois d'octobre, a continué à se battre avec acharnement et a terminé le mois en remportant la première place au classement général des qualifications pour les championnats Kawarthas. L'équipe accueillera les championnats Kawarthas la première semaine de novembre.

Le mois d'octobre avait beaucoup ce qui se passe et HHSS est excitantes pour ce qui peut arriver en novembre

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Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.  
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**(40)Heifers: (10)Char, (20)Black, (10)Simm & Blk** - 1st time calvers, bred Angus, vaccinated, double moved  
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**(10) Charolais cows** - all bred Charolais - vaccinated  
**(11) Cows: (4) Black cows & calves, (4) bred cows, (3)black heifers** - bred Angus/Simm X, vaccinated  
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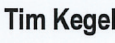
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## Changes for 'double-hatters' welcome news

CHAD INGRAM  
 Staff Reporter

The Ford government has tabled legislation proposing changes to firefighting services, legislation that is welcome news to small communities across Ontario including the municipalities of Haliburton County.

Those changes, part of the government's Bill 57 introduced mid-November, will eliminate some existing barriers to what is known as "double-hatting." Double-hatters are full-time firefighters who serve with departments other than the one where they centrally employed, such as the volunteer fire departments in the communities where they live.

The firefighters' union has essentially outlawed the practice. Seeking to unionize part-time positions, the union has taken disciplinary action against double-hatters in the past, including issuing suspensions and fines. Its position has largely involved concerns around liability when double-hatters are injured.

see FIRE page 9



### Uplifting evening

Alex Jowett, left, and India enjoy one of the balloons the Lions Club was giving out in downtown Haliburton on Friday evening before the Santa Claus Parade. The parade brought out crowds of families to the main street. More photos on page 3.  
 /JENN WATT Staff

## Invasive beetle found in neighbouring areas

SUE TIFFIN  
 Staff Reporter

The presence of the emerald ash borer hasn't been confirmed in Haliburton yet, but the invasive wood-boring beetle has been identified in Muskoka and City of Kawartha Lakes and it's just a matter of time before the insect establishes itself here.

The emerald ash borer, native to Asia, is a small beetle with a metallic green back and emerald green underside. It's believed to have crossed into Ontario at Windsor from the Detroit area, where it might have arrived in wood packaging or pallets. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency calls it "highly destructive," as it attacks and kills all species of ash and is already responsible for killing millions of trees in North America.

Infestations now exist across much of southern Ontario, according to the provincial government's information page about the insect, from Lambton County north to Grey County and east to Renfrew County and Ottawa. It's also been found on Manitoulin Island and in Sault Ste. Marie. The emerald ash borer was confirmed to be in Fenelon Falls in 2013, and just this past September in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst.

"We've been running this program for

see EMERALD page 2

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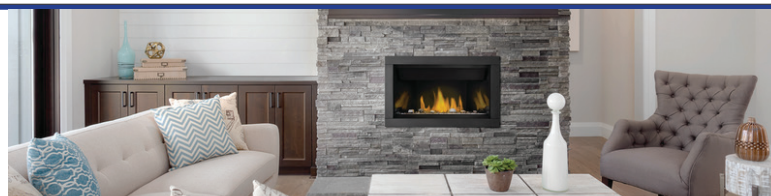
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